

DEFENSE MEDICAL LOGISTICS STANDARD SUPPORT AUTOMATED INFORMATION SYSTEM (DMLSS AIS)



The Defense Medical Logistics Standard Support (DMLSS) program defines and implements a more efficient medical logistics capability for military treatment facilities (MTFs) and field units to support health care operations. The DMLSS Automated Information System (DMLSS AIS) is intended to enhance operations by automating manual processes, improving processes already automated, and eliminating existing processes that add no value. It has replaced a number of legacy systems operated by the individual Services, with three remaining to be replaced by the final release. The system supports four major functional areas: (1) materiel management, (2) facility management, (3) equipment and technology, and (4) wholesale operations. The first three of these are retail medical logistic functions that are performed by MTFs and field units worldwide. The wholesale functions are performed at only one site—the Defense Supply Center, Philadelphia.

DMLSS AIS integrates the medical logistics systems of the Services, reduces MTF inventories of medical and pharmaceutical items, and decreases the medical logistics footprint. This integration decreases the vulnerability of logistics lines of communications to deployed forces.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

DMLSS AIS wholesale and retail systems were first deployed to test sites in 1995. Following successful OT&E of the wholesale system, OPTEVFOR, the independent OTA, determined that there was little risk in implementing future enhancements at the single wholesale location and DOT&E concurred. Over the years, OPTEVFOR has performed independent OT&E on two major releases and some incremental enhancements of the retail system. DMLSS AIS Release 2.0, which supports materiel management and facilities management functions, has been fielded worldwide to approximately 110 MTFs. Release 3.0, the final increment, will enhance the materiel management module and add a third module to support equipment maintenance and inventory, and the acquisition of new technology.

In January 2000, OPTEVFOR conducted OT on live DMLSS AIS 2.0 systems at three test sites: Fort Knox, KY; Great Lakes Naval Training Center, IL; and Yokota Air Base, Japan. DOT&E's independent assessment concluded that DMLSS AIS 2.0 was operationally effective and operationally suitable. Subsequently, in June 2000, OPTEVFOR performed OT&E on Customer Support on the Web (CSW), an enhancement that enables customers to receive medical logistics support by accessing web-

based applications. DOT&E concluded that CSW was operationally effective and suitable. DOT&E recommended that both DMLSS AIS 2.0 and the CSW enhancement be deployed worldwide.

TEST & EVALUATION ACTIVITY

DMLSS AIS 3.0 is currently completing DT&E at three MTFs in the United States. The software has been or is being installed at three additional test sites where OT&E is scheduled for 2QFY02: Naval Medical Center, Portsmouth, VA; David Grant Medical Center, Travis AFB, CA; and Brooke Army Medical Center, Fort Sam Houston, TX. As with previous releases, the general OT concept will be to: (1) observe users performing typical actions in an operational environment; (2) distribute user questionnaires and conduct user interviews; and (3) review relevant reports, logs, and other documentation.

TEST & EVALUATION ASSESSMENT

DMLSS AIS is clearly an improvement over previous practices and systems. Release 2.0 and CSW are operating successfully and there is excellent potential for further automation of the medical logistics processes. The Release 2.0 OT&E had disclosed several issues that needed to be addressed. For example, the facility management module, despite its potential as an effective tool for managing facility maintenance, materiel, and construction projects, was not being used extensively or effectively. DOT&E made several recommendations to the PM and the medical logistics functional community for improving DMLSS AIS and the criteria used to evaluate it. The PM took action to correct the deficiencies, and the ORD was updated and revalidated. The PM is submitting an updated TEMP to OSD for approval, and OPTEVFOR will have both the requirements and guidance it needs to conduct OT&E on DMLSS AIS 3.0. The resulting assessment will determine the remaining actions necessary for DMLSS AIS to reach FOC.